

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a city skyline with a diagonal beam of light. The top-right quadrant depicts a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on wavy water. The bottom-right quadrant features a grizzly bear standing on its hind legs. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom contains the motto "A NE FOR A".

## **Agenda Item 3**

### **Minute**

Draft

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting of the EXECUTIVE held within the Municipal Buildings,  
Falkirk on Tuesday 12 March 2019 at 9.30 a.m.**

**Councillors:** David Alexander  
Robert Bissett  
Gary Bouse  
Joan Coombes  
Jim Flynn  
Paul Garner  
Nigel Harris  
Gordon Hughes  
Cecil Meiklejohn  
Malcolm Nicol  
Alan Nimmo  
Pat Reid

**Officers:** Paul Ferguson, Revenue Manager  
Jack Frawley, Committee Services Officer  
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services  
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive  
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer  
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services  
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

**EX125. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**EX126. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Bissett declared a financial interest in item EX131 in that he had an interest in purchasing the property in the event the decision was taken that it be disposed of on the open market. He stated that he considered that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of the item.

**EX127. Minute**

**Decision**

**The minute of the meeting of the Executive held on 19 February 2019 was approved.**

## **EX128. Rolling Action Log**

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 19 February 2019 was provided. Item 437 – Council Headquarters Project was the subject of a report on the agenda and accordingly fell from the action log.

### **Decision**

**The Executive noted the rolling action log.**

## **EX129. Town Centre and Council HQ/Arts Centre**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which provided an update on the progress relating to the regeneration of Falkirk town centre and delivery of the Council's civic headquarter (HQ) and Arts Centre replacement projects.

The Council had participated in a working group involving representatives of Falkirk BID, local retailers, landowners and other town centre stakeholders. The working group suggested that a revitalised town centre should:-

- be a strong and distinctive place to live, work and rest
- create a vibrant place for interaction
- be the centre of an economic powerhouse (TIF/Investment Zone)
- accommodate a diverse range of uses with culture at its heart
- attract people and business back
- exploit the benefits of heritage
- have strong community 'ownership' – a place where 'inclusion is non-negotiable'.

A draft action plan was appended to the report. The action plan identified responsibilities and a timeline for delivery. A governance model was also appended to the report and proposed the formation of 'Revitalising Falkirk' - a Town Centre Partnership and a 'Town Centre Forum'. The Forum would be a sounding board for measures proposed by the Partnership and would receive reports on progress. Draft terms of reference and details of representation would be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive.

The Executive approved the approach to procurement for the HQ at its meeting on 16 October 2018 (ref EX72). The Council of the Future Board was responsible for overseeing the process to assess Bidders participating in the competitive dialogue stage, and assessing Bids (through dialogue) to recommend the preferred bidder/scheme. A scoring matrix, developed using the assessment criteria identified in the report to the October Executive, would be agreed by the Board and referred to the Executive for

decision. The recommendation on a preferred bidder and scheme would also be referred to Members for decision.

A feasibility study on the Arts Centre was being commissioned by Falkirk Community Trust in their capacity as the current operator of the town hall. It was anticipated that consultants would be appointed to undertake this work in March 2019.

### **Decision**

#### **The Executive agreed:-**

- (1) to progress the formation of a Town Centre Partnership to take forward work to revitalise the town centre;**
- (2) that the terms of reference and representation of the Town Centre Partnership be the subject of a further report to Executive;**
- (3) to assist in delivery of a town centre action plan, being established by the Partnership, and**
- (4) the approach to procurement of the Council's civic headquarters and arts centre projects as set out in section 4 of the report.**

Councillor Bissett left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

#### **EX130. Asset Surplus to Requirements – Land at Burnhead Lane/East Bridge Street, Falkirk**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which sought approval to sell a piece of land at Burnhead Lane and East Bridge Street, Falkirk.

### **Decision**

#### **The Executive agreed to:-**

- (1) declare land at Burnhead Lane/East Bridge Street surplus to operational requirements, and**
- (2) authorise the Director of Development Services to dispose of the property by negotiation.**

#### **EX131. Asset Surplus to Requirements – Larbert Cemetery Lodge**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which sought approval to sell Larbert Cemetery Lodge, 25 Muirhead Road, Larbert.

##### **Decision**

**The Executive agreed to:-**

- (1) declare Larbert Cemetery Lodge surplus to operational requirements, and**
- (2) authorise the disposal of the property on the open market.**

Councillor Bissett re-joined the meeting following consideration of the previous item of business.

#### **EX132. Exclusion of Public**

**The Executive agreed in terms of section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 8 of part 1 of schedule 7A to the said Act.**

#### **EX133. Irrecoverable Debts 2018/19**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which sought approval to write out of the accounts for 2018/19 debts which were in excess of £5,000 and were unlikely to be recoverable.

##### **Decision**

**The Executive agreed, subject to further recovery action being taken should the opportunity arise, that the following debts in excess of £5,000 were written out of the accounts for 2018/19:-**

- (1) Council Tax debts totalling £73,330.10 as detailed in appendix A to the report;**
- (2) rent debts totalling £49,472.49 as detailed in appendix B to the report;**
- (3) Housing Benefit Overpayments debts totalling £56,635.82 as detailed in Appendix C to the report;**

- (4) Non-Domestic Rates debts totalling £860,087.37 as detailed in Appendix D to the report, with an appropriate adjustment to the Contributable return, to Scottish Government for 2018/19;**
- (5) Sundry Account debts totalling £92,221.00 (Inclusive of any VAT) as detailed in Appendix E to the report, and**
- (6) Temporary Accommodation charges totalling £36,768.09 as detailed in Appendix F to the report.**